

## Special Units

**Bike Patrol**— Officers patrol trails, business districts and the streets on bicycles. They also act as liaisons for specials events.



**Suburban Emergency Team (SERT)**— Consists of sworn officers who are on 24 hour call out status and able to respond with equipment and trained personnel capable of supervising, staffing, and controlling an incident.



**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**— Within SERT there are officers that are specifically trained in negotiating peaceful resolutions to incidents involving a hostage situation and/or barricaded subject situation. CIT consists of five officers and one Lieutenant from West Des Moines, Urbandale, and Dallas County.

**Mid Iowa Narcotics Enforcement (MINE):** A team effort by local law enforcement to investigate illegal drug activities in the western metro area. The task force is comprised of narcotics detectives from the western suburbs.

**Police Reserve Unit**— Established on September 1, 1961, the function of the Reserve Unit is to perform general support to the Police Department. The Reserve Unit has 20 positions. A Reserve Officer is asked to provide a minimum of 35 hours per quarter in uniform assisting the Patrol Division and an additional 20 hours of various other assignments per year. Training standards are available at the police department.

**Youth Justice Initiative**— Increase accountability for juveniles offenders by including their families, victims and the community to identify harms and restore justice.

Learn more about the West Des Moines Police Department and the programs provided at [www.wdm-ia.com](http://www.wdm-ia.com).



The patch was originally designed in 1961 by Officer Bob Baird for the West Des Moines Police Department.

### West Des Moines Police Department

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DEDICATED TO  
COMMUNITY POLICING



WEST DES MOINES  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT



# WEST DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT



West Des Moines is the largest suburb in the Des Moines metropolitan area. With a population of approximately 61,569, and our community continues to grow in both residential and commercial development. The estimated population in 2020 will be 91,601.

West Des Moines covers an area approximately 39.49 square miles with the incorporation of more land planned. Our city has definitely changed from the Valley Junction era consisting of 300 residents, 12 businesses, and a town marshal.

West Des Moines Police Department takes pride in its professional approach to modern day law enforcement. Since 1996, the Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department was reaccredited in 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2008. This accreditation builds cost-effective, efficient management systems that ward off problems before they occur and supports the latest proactive law enforcement services. It allows an agency to write its own policies and procedures based on standards which have been studied and accepted nationwide. These policies give us a secure base to answer any civil or policy challenge.



## Community Oriented Policing Services

The West Des Moines Police Department philosophy of problem solving involves forming a partnership with the community. The police department and community together will be taking actions necessary to resolve the community's problems. The police department assigns several officers to territories within the city and the team members collaborate to solve neighborhood concerns. Team members do not always use conventional police methods when problem solving. They research various methods of problem resolutions with the assistance of the community. The community has become actively involved in solving their own problems and addressing crime.

## Law Enforcement Center

The West Des Moines Police Department operates from a 34,000 square foot law enforcement center located at 250 Mills Civic Parkway, just off Valley West Drive/35th Street and E.P. True Parkway.



Completed in March of 1992, the facility includes a shooting range, holding facility, and an evidence lab.

## Department Personnel

Full-Time Sworn Officers	66
Animal Control Officers	2
*Full-time 2 Part-time 2	
Evidence Technician	1
Office Staff (full & part-time)	10
Volunteer Reserve Police	12
Community Service Officers	2
Code Enforcement	2
* Full-time 1 Part Time 1	
Crime Analysis	1

## Assignment of Sworn Officers

Chief	1
Captains	3
Lieutenants	6
Sergeants	6
Uniformed Patrol Officers	29
Detectives	12
Community Education/outreach	2
Training Officer	1
Traffic Unit	4
SOU Officers	2
K-9 Officers	1

## Hiring Requirements

- Must be 21 years of age on before date of written entrance exam and a citizen of the U.S at time of application
- Uncorrected vision of not less than 20/100 in both eyes, corrected to 20/20
- Valid Iowa driver's license, good driving record
- Ability to lift, drag, and/or carry heavy objects, in excess of 50lbs on occasion
- High School diploma or GED and at least an Associates Degree or two years of college (60 credits)
- Education substitutes 3 years of active military duty or 3 years being a sworn officer
- Successfully pass a background investigation to include polygraph, psychological, and physical testing



**K-9 Unit-** Officer Kock and Rony. Rony is a specially trained German Shepherd that joined the department in April 2004. The K-9 Unit provides assistance to all sections of the department and is trained in the detection of illegal drugs, tracking missing or fleeing persons, building searches, evidence location and handler protection. The K-9 Unit also does public appearances and demonstrations.